

REMARKS

The present amendment is responsive to the Office Action of July 30, 2002.

In accordance with the Examiner's recommendation, the term VELCRO has been deleted from the application and replaced by the term "hook and loop fastener" at each occurrence in the claims and specification, these occurrences being in Claims 7, 15 and 19, and in the specification at page 3, line 5, and page 6, line 2.

The claims have been rejected under Sec. 112 with respect to the term "relatively easy" in Claims 1, 11 and 19. By the present amendment, this term has been deleted at each occurrence, and each claim now specifies that the rolling up together and storage are simplified. This ground of rejection is thus believed to be eliminated.

Regarding Claims 9, 17, and 21, the term "preferred" has been deleted and the word "the" substituted, thus eliminating the objection to the term "preferred".

The rejection under Sec. 112 relative to the term VELCRO is believed to be eliminated by deletion of this term from the specification and claims.

Claim 22 is canceled, thus eliminating the objection thereto as not further limiting Claim 19. Claims 23 and 24 are also canceled.

Claims 1-9, 11-17 and 19-24 were rejected under 35 USC 103 on Spears in view of McNeil and Huard.

These claims are thus rejected on a combination of three references. Thus, it would seem apparent that these claims are not made obvious by such combination of references. It is respectfully urged that the combined references do not make obvious or suggest the claimed combination, and that these claims are allowable.

Regarding Claims 5, 7, 13, 15 and 19, in particular, the Examiner states that Spears, as modified by the Examiner, does not disclose an elastic strap connected to an edge portion of a shield pad and that it would be obvious to allow the elastic strap to be joined to a shield pad to hold the pads in the compact arrangement or position "as taught by an umbrella". Applicant urges that an umbrella is an entirely different art than that of the present invention, and it is quite unlikely that a person conceiving a shield pads invention would look to such art as that of umbrellas. It is believed unobvious to join shield

pads by such elastic straps connected to edge portions of shield pads to retain shield pads in a rolled, compact configuration. Allowance of Claims 5, 7, 13, 15 and 19 is respectfully solicited.

Regarding the Examiner's comment regarding Claims 6 and 14, the Spears reference only shows two spaced straps between edge portions of two pads, and suggest nothing regarding suction cups to attach the pads to a vehicle, nor rolling up together of the pads. Neither Huard nor Spears discloses the overall claimed combinations involving spaced-apart suction cups on each of two shield pads with at least one strap to secure lateral edge portions of the shield pads together, with fastener means to detachably secure a second end portion of the strap to a second shield pad, for removably attaching the shields to vehicle sides and doors, and enable the rolling up together of the pads. Claims 6 and 14 are believed to be allowable, and allowance is solicited.

Claims 10 and 18 were rejected under Sec. 103 on Spears, as modified as applied to Claims 1-9, and 11-17, and further in view of Huang et al. The references do not at all suggest that a shield can also be used as a sunshade. Huang relates

only to a sunshade and its attachment to a window, and not to shield pads and relates to sunshields comprising spring loops. It suggests nothing relative to shield pads for vehicle sides and doors. Only by combining and modifying references, can Applicant's claimed combinations be suggested. The claimed, advantageous combinations are not disclosed or made obvious by the references. Claims 10 and 18 are therefore urged to be allowable.

Regarding Claims 8, 9, 16, 17, 20, 21, 23 and 24, the Examiner indicates that Spears does not disclose shield pads formed of the blend of neoprene rubber, ethylene propylene, styrene butadiene rubber or ethylene vinyl acetate. This highly effective blend of components is not at all suggested by the references or combination of references and provides an advantageous combination, and these claims are believed to be allowable.

Claims 10 and 18 were rejected under Sec. 103 on Spears, as modified by the Examiner, as applied to Claims 1-9 and 11-17, and further in view of Huang et al. It is urged that it would not have been at all obvious to combine such references in arriving at Applicant's claimed combinations. The defined combinations are deemed to be unobvious, and that the claims are believed to be allowable. Allowance is solicited.

It is urged that the claims presently in the application are allowable, and allowance thereof is respectfully solicited.

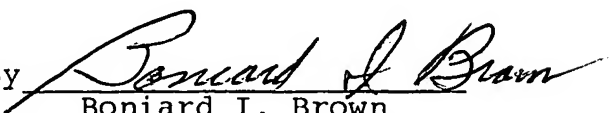
Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the application by the current amendment. The attached pages are captioned "Version With Markings To Show Changes Made".

The application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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